MESSAGE

OF THE

;OVERNOR OF NEW JERSEY,

TO THE

\ATE AND HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,

AT THE

COMMENCEMEMT OF THE SESSION.

:D JANUARY 10, 1856, AND ORDERED TO BE PRINTED.

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GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER,
January 8, 1856.

cs and Members of the General Assembly:

NLEMEN—You meet at a time when the people of New are enjoying unprecedented health, prosperity and ss.

acious Providence has amply rewarded the labor of l and work-shop. Under such congratulatory circum- it is with peculiar pleasure I perform the duty im- by the Constitution, of communicating to you the n of the affairs of the state, and calling your attention measures, as in my judgment may be expedient, and ed to advance the common welfare.

ie report of the Treasurer, the ordinary disburse- f the past year have been $126,021.32, and the ex- ary expenditures $95,119.05, making the total ex- res $221,140.37, and the receipts to have been 3.62, leaving the sum of $122.05 in the treasury on December.

evenues during the past year from our public works en less than were estimated, and the appropriations eater, consequently, after realizing the loan of $30,000

authorized by the last Legislature, there are still som
propriations unsatisfied, but which can be readily met
the receipts of the revenues due during the present m
The condition of the treasury, however, demands pru
and economical appropriations, so as to liquidate the
and meet the ordinary expenses of the present year.
fund for the support of free schools has increased $10,2
during the past year, and now amounts to $413,454.96.

The Geological Survey has progressed in a most sat
tory manner. The reports of the superintendent an
associates, which accompany this message, show a
amount of work done, and the results exhibited cannc
to satisfy you with the importance of prosecuting the su
These reports are very creditable to the gentlemen who
had charge of the different departments of the work
contain matter of great value to the people of the stat

In the topographical report will be found a concise
interesting review of our internal improvements an
sources. The geological examinations in the norther
tricts, show an increasing development of the vast mi
deposits of that section. The explorations in the sou
district are of great interest and value, in connection
its agricultural improvement. A precise chemical an
follows the examinations in the field. To the end tha
work may be prosecuted with the same spirit that ha
far characterized it, I recommend a further appropriat
the same amount as made last year.

The maps of some of the counties are completed, an
being engraved on copper. Those of the counties of S
and Cape May accompany the report, and will be f
upon examination, equal in execution to those made b
coast survey of the General Government, which
been carried to the highest point of accuracy. These
will be generally sought for, and a large number of
required, beyond what the State ought gratuitously to
ply. In order that they shall be justly distributed, I

ecommend that the Legislature determine a price at which hey may be sold. This can be made either nominal, or sufficient to reimburse the treasury in whole or in part for the cost of the survey. The details of this work are of such a character that it has attracted the attention of scientific persons generally; many of them, as well as the Executives of several of the states, and representatives of public libraries, have applied for copies of the report of last year, which, on account of the limited number printed, could not be furnished; it is therefore desirable that a number of copies of the present report be set aside for distribution in this country and in Europe.

I beg leave to invite attention to the report of the Adjutant-General, by which it will be seen that a late law of congress changes the basis of apportioning the quota of arms and military supplies, distributed to the states, and supercedes the act of the legislature, passed March 17, 1852, the repeal of which is recommended; the further recommendations contained in the report, will, I trust, receive the attentive and favorable consideration to which they are entitled, emanating from a zealous and accomplished officer, who devotes much time and reflection to our militia system.

The office of Quartermaster-general became vacant by the resignation of Brigadier-General Samuel R. Hamilton, and has been filled by the appointment of Brigadier-General Lewis Perrine. The reports of these two officers embrace the annual distribution and receipt of the state arms, and the amount and condition on hand at the state arsenal. The want of reports from the several brigade inspectors, as required by law, prevents the Quartermaster-general from making as complete a report as desirable. The authority for altering our muskets from flint to percussion locks, and the repairs and alterations of the state arsenal, as desired by the report, I hope will be granted.

The importance and the duty of the state to have a well organized, armed, disciplined and efficient militia, I trust is

appreciated, and will receive from you the care and att
necessary to keep our's in a condition to meet a
exigences which may arise.

The annual report of the superintendent of public s
shows that a larger number of children has attende
received the benefits of our schools; and the sum rai
tax, for school purposes, and the efforts of the peo
carry forward this great work, vastly exceed that
former year. My own convictions of the wise and e
ened policy, and duty of educating the children of the
have been so fully heretofore expressed, that I consi
unnecessary to urge them again upon the legislature.

The Normal School has been successfully establish
put into operation in this city, in a temporary bu
only awaiting the completion of a large and comm
edifice, which has been erected by the voluntary co
tions of the citizens of Trenton, for its permanent
modation, and will probably be ready for occupation
the adjournment of the legislature. The liberal, wis
enlightened act, establishing this institution, has bee
tioned and approved by the people of the state, and
representatives will have an opportunity of seeing the
tical operation of the school during their session.
trustees, in their annual report, will give full infor
as to its establishment, progress, and condition.

Teachers' Institutes have been held during the pas
in thirteen counties. The increased interest for edu
which has been aroused by these several enactments,
ready exerted a beneficial influence throughout the
They will make our educational system equal to that
other state, where it should be our highest pride to
tain it.

"Promote, then, as an object of primary importan
stitutions for the general diffusion of knowledge. I
portion as the structure of a government gives force t

nion it is essential that public opinion should be en-
ned."

commissioners appointed under the law of the last
n, "to revise the school laws of the state, to ex-
nd codify the same," have prepared a law which will
mitted for your consideration, as required, before the
day of your session.

Commissioners of the library have not made the al-
ons in the library rooms, as contemplated and author-
y the law, approved March 29, 1855. Upon examin-
it was found that there is not sufficient room in the
House, to accommodate the State and Law Libraries.
he Commissioners had a design made for an enlarge-
of the building, which will give a good Library room
ommittee rooms to the Senate and Assembly Chambers,
are much needed, and would be a valuable addition
State House, and in perfect harmony with its architec-
the whole cost is estimated at ten thousand dollars.
resent Library room could be appropriated to the min-
y and natural history of the State, which it is proper
l be arranged, and will no more than accommodate the
nens obtained by the officers of the Geological Survey.
additions to the Lunatic Asylum authorized by the
lature of eighteen hundred and fifty-four, have been
eted and furnished, and the work of removing the heat-
paratus from the main building has also been completed.
condition of the affairs of the Asylum will be found
report of the managers and officers. The appropria-
for this institution have been large and liberal, and
ost sanguine expectations of the humane in its estab-
ent have been realized. By its enlargement, and the
ional room afforded for the paying patients, the annual
to the state of maintaining the institution, will be
ly diminished. No further extraordinary appropriations
e needed or anticipated by the managers.

r the condition and conduct of the State Prison, I re-

spectfully refer to the reports of the keeper, inspe
physician, and moral instructor. This institution requ
hospital, but whether the condition of the treasury
admit of its being authorized to be built this year, is l
your better judgment.

The number of deaf and dumb, and blind support
whole or in part by the state, in the New York and I
delphia institutions, is about the same as last year.
appropriation is ample for the object, and the care o
pupils of the state by the superintendents of those exc
institutions, is unexceptionable. I highly approve of
mode of taking care of the poor and afflicted, and I v
recommend that a similar provision be made for the pa
idiots of the state, so that they may be sent to an instit
now established in Philadelphia, where, by the sy
adopted, this unfortunate class are, to a limited exten
claimed.

The report of the Commissioners on Pilotage affo
most satisfactory account of our pilot establishment, a
herewith submitted.

Railroads have been extended, and double tracks
being laid on some of the most important lines of road,
arrangements are being made for the heavy coal transp
tion, from the inexhaustible coal beds of Pennsylv
across our territory to New York, Philadelphia, and
own manufacturing cities, which must necessarily have
effect of reducing the price of coal to our own citi
giving them the advantage of greatly increased traffic,
our railroads and navigable waters, and will further de
strate the value and importance of the natural and geogr
cal position of our state, and promote its agricultural
mineral developments. While our railroads are as well
as safely conducted as those of any other State,—whic
shown by statistics—and while we have the oldest roads,
more than our share of ability and experience devote
their care and management, a sad and painful accident

in the month of September last, causing a great deal
vidual suffering, which has been deeply sympathised
he directors and managers of the road, and the public
.

the greatest possible security against accidents may
ned, I respectfully suggest that a joint committee of
islature, be appointed at an early day of your ses-
ose duty it shall be, after due deliberation and in-
tion, to recommend such further legislation, as would,
opinion, increase safety in railway travel.

eat the recommendations heretofore made, for some
in our road law. The present system of working
p and county roads is defective, as the condition and
er of our highways will attest. It is desirable
re practical knowledge be employed in their con-
n, and greater care and attention bestowed upon their
ble repair. This would be productive of improved
ys and economy to the tax-payers. The value of
oads is not sufficiently estimated. While they re-
e cost of transporting our produce to a market,
eatly enhance the value of the land. Well made,
rated turnpikes, are an acknowledged benefit in
ections of the state, and are remunerative to the
invested in them; but turnpikes are not in accordance
e popular idea of free public highways, and I think
found more expensive to the community than an
d system to afford as good roads. Turnpikes are
ilt through densely populated districts of country,
built as an advantageous investment for capital,
han accommodation for the public. In our present
we have too many overseers of highways, and the
ibility for the condition of roads is so much diffused,
tle experience or study is bestowed upon them, and
or lost. The great importance of this subject de-
early and earnest attention, and I recommend that a
mmittee be appointed to investigate the whole sub-

ject, and report such amendment to the present laws calculated to improve our highways.

For the better protection and prevention of encroac upon the waters of New York harbor, that state ap commissioners to survey the said harbor, and repor terior line for wharves, piers, or other constructions.

This state has an equal interest with New York important matter, and therefore I recommend that sioners should be appointed by this state for a like —to act either separately or in conjunction with t York commissioners, as they may deem advisable survey is, I am informed, almost completed, and the l shortly be defined. The rights of the state of New may be seriously affected thereby, therefore prompt on your part may be desirable.

By the report of the Bank Commissioners herewi mitted, it will be seen that two new banks have b ganized under the act authorizing the business of l during the last year, showing conclusively that the law would have afforded all the banking facilities r by the people of the state, and by giving perfect sec their issues, the bill holders were always safe. Amer recommended last year to the law, are again urged Bank Commissioners. Notwithstanding the Leg at its last session re-chartered many special ban granted five new charters, they left the general bank on our statute book; we have therefore two bank tems recognized by our laws, which cannot equitably the same time. My sentiments on this subject havi fully expressed in my last message, and sustained by tion in relation to the charters referred to, I beg l reiterate the same.

It is deeply to be regretted that our policy in to banking was disturbed. The effect is, that mo twenty applications for bank charters will be made I trust none of these applications will be acted upo

ve decided which is the better of the two systems; e granting of any special bank charter is, in my , prejudicial to the best interests of the state, and I ntly hope that they will be resisted by the friends of l laws. I will again urge upon your consideration the e of a law prohibiting the circulation of bank notes of llars and under; such a law would increase the circu- of gold and silver, and protect the laboring classes currency liable to depreciation.

; leave to refer to the legislation legalizing an in- rate of interest in Essex and Hudson counties, and city of Paterson. A difference in the legal rate of in- n contiguous territory acts prejudicially to that allow- lower rate. That portion of our state lying near ork suffered loss of capital because, a higher rate of t was given in that state, which attracted and took capital, and prevented our citizens from effecting here. This induced the legislature to increase the the counties referred to, which has given satisfaction, considered beneficial by the people, but the people of acent counties complain that it is prejudicial to them same causes that previously affected and were com- l of by the counties of Essex and Hudson. Our present scriminate also in favor of railroad companies who owed to pay seven per cent. on their bonds. The nt and sufficient security offered by the many works rnal improvements induces our capitalists to invest oney in them, both in and out of the state. I do not e to express the opinion that a uniform rate of inter- ht to exist throughout the state.

his connection, I cannot forego noticing the recom- tion by the Executives of several states of the Union, al all laws on the subject of usury, assuming that the or money, like merchandize and produce, should be d regulated by supply and demand. These views have ed public attention, and have their advocates in this

and other states, and there are also those who advocate zing contracts at any rates that may be agreed upon parties, and other modifications which in effect are tanta to an abolition of usury laws, in whole or in part. Str usury laws are, to my mind, as necessary to restrain a (one of the worst passions) as any of our criminal la to restrain and punish crime. The argument that th evaded and disregarded, certainly is not true in this except possibly in a few transactions; and it is equal founded that they keep up a high rate of interest. In a comparison between the states where no usury law and where they do, and compare the rates of interest, will be found that the absence of usury laws, or the of them, increased the rate of interest enormously, and increased debt, great sacrifices of property, distress, a of many, from the unrestricted price of money, and th city of money lenders. The result has been frightful states where the experiment has been tried, and most str laws have been invariably re-enacted within two or thre after their repeal. Money is not increased, and does come plentiful and cheap when relieved from the restra usury laws, nor does competition among money lend duce the rate of interest, as it is urged. If it did, the would be, in times of plenty, at a less rate than allov law, there being no obstacle to competition below it. arguments may do for the lenders, not the borrow money. The effect is to increase, instead of dimini rate of interest.

It must not be forgotten, that money is created b ernment, and merchandise and produce by individua and industry. Money is made a standard of value, a cu and a legal tender for the payment of debts, which is ne for the convenience of all, to conduct trade. These are conferred, and it is the duty of the government that no injury is done to the public, and unless th power can be given to wheat, corn, and manufacture

ıey are not equal to, or the same as money, and this be done; for two currencies, or two standards of annot exist together; therefore, the holders of money, e holders of that representing money, cannot be made for the farmer and the manufacturer cannot pay their ions with the products of their labor; thus the unre- d pricc of money, increases the advantage of capital ıbor. So long as there is a distinction in the power ıey and the products of labor, the lender and the bor- of money are not equally free; whereas, as relates to e or purchase of everything else, the parties are free. herefore, evident, restrictions in moneyed transactions cessary.

stigation, experience, and evidence will show that laws give protection to property, and stability to trade, confidence between man and man, and are a whole- estraint upon the blind passions of avarice, prevents s, destitution and crime and is a safeguard to the nd laboring classes. Such is the policy, wisdom, and ity of this old and almost universal law, which pro- he community from imposition, prodigality and extor- The happiness, prosperity and well-being of society d, in my judgment, a rigid enforcement of usury laws, ith the hope of checking the growth of a sentiment so rous, and productive of such great evils, and the fear ıe interested, and those who know little of the nature ınce, might effect some modification or change in the as induced me thus fully to discuss the subject.

state agricultural society held its first exhibition at en, in September last. It was an occasion full of interest, rew together a very large number of agriculturalists. xhibition was gotten up on a scale creditable to the and was eminently successful, and calculated to invigo- his first and most important branch of industry.

officers of the society have placed the state under ations for the zeal and labor manifested by them in the

arrangement of the exhibition. I recommend that
propriation made last year to this society be renewed
session. Every effort at improvement in our sys
agriculture has met with such signal success as to i
perseveranee. The large area of unoeeupied lan
lying dormant, ean, with the means nature has so bou
supplied, be brought under sueeessful eulture.

The market is at our doors, and every motive of p
profit and state pride, urges us, to the encouragen
enlightened and improved agriculture, as the true so
our wealth, and as the first objeet and care of the state
beneficial effects of the applieation of scienee to agri
is perceptible in every county of the state, by the i
ment of soil and augmentation of erops the husban
enriched and emigration prevented. For this we hav
to hope from the state agricultural soeiety, and the n
county societies.

The Historical Society of the state has incurre
expense in proeuring an analytical index to the
documents deposited in the state-paper offices of E
and the Legislature at its session of eighteen hundr
fifty-two, authorized a subseription towards its publ
Considerable progress has been made in the volume
having been thought advisable by the society to inc
in the index; references to the documents and reeord
found in private and public depositories in Ameri
nected with our colonial era, the work has been susp

The subject is one which eannot fail to enlist you
est, and the society desires a co-operation of the Leg
in direeting, by resolution, an inquiry into the eond
the publie records in eaeh county, authorizing the pr
of the pleas and eounty elerk, with two or more men
the Historical Society, to make the necessary exami
and report to the next Legislature the condition of
spective eounty reeords, and submit such a summary

ation obtained as may supply what is wanted for the
tion of the index referred to.
history of New Jersey is calculated to arouse the
ide of its citizens. No state can point to so many
ields—none to the amount of sacrifice and devotion
n the dark days of our revolution—none, indeed,
ore stern fortitude sustained the privations and suf-
of that glorious struggle, but strange to say, the history
acrifices of her people has never been written, and not
ne is raised upon another, to commemorate the gal-
of her sons, or designate the spot where the great
of the revolution were fought, and won, I confidently
at encouragement will be afforded the commendable
triotic exertions of the historical socicty for obtain-
the information desired to complete and illustrate
tory.
ewith transmit communiations of public inteerest re-
from the states of Massachusetts, Connecticut, and
in accordance with the request contained in the reso-
of those States. They refer to the Missouri compro-
nd the slavery question.
to be regretted, that any of the states of the Union
deem it necessary to agitate at this or any other time,
s like these, in a spirit so imperative and uncocilia-
It must be admitted by all, that the questions refer-
are of a character to enlist in their consideration,
prudence, moderation, and forbearance, which the
of every section of the confederation have a right to
and demand, from those of other sections. In this
do I desire to direct the attention of the legislature
he points involved in these resolutions.
the so called Missouri compromise was, in itself, an
ent devised to accommodate, for the time being, the
ting opinions which existed in regard to the admission
state of Missouri, with a constitution recognizing the
ice of slavery, no one will deny. The act was, in its

nature, so far as the future exclusion of slavery, fr
remainder of the territory acquired from France,
cession of Louisiana, a restriction upon the rights
slave-holding states—since in the normal condition
territory, slavery was recognized. And although
submitted to for a while, there was nothing in its pro
to cast around it the halo of "good faith," which its
cates pretend should have guarded it from repeal.
is repealed; and I submit, can it now be restored w
advantage? In restoring it, were it possible to do
bring back the free citizens who now inhabit, or may
ture inhabit those territories, to that condition of qua
nial dependence, which they are now freed from, and
is at variance with the principles of free government.
Jerseymen, contend that we have the capacity, and
dowed by nature, in common with all our countrymen,
right of self-government. We enjoy it to the fullest ex
our own state. But should inclination or necessity tak
a territory, the common property of us all, shall we t
forfeit that right, and become more subservient to t
of the federal government than we now are? Shall
with the right of having a voice in the establishment
stitutions, on which our future may depend? I thir
and therefore, I believe that the restoration of the M
compromise is not to be desired any more, by us
north, than by our brethren of the south.

With regard to the disturbances in Kansas, howeve
they formed a subject of regret and condemnation, t
no doubt they had their origin as much in the acts of t
guided fanaticism of a portion of the people of the
states as in the violence of the intruders from the bor
Missouri. If either of these parties had been willing t
dealt fairly by the settlers in Kansas, and to have lef
to the enjoyment of the rights, which they themselv
sessed under their territorial law, and the constitut
the United States, no disturbance would have occurr

such as may be considered inseparable from the con-
f the first occupants of remote territories; but such
nate good sense and love of justice of the American
that discord cannot sway them long, in the presence
substantial benefits, to be produced by harmony
ón. Left to themselves, the people of Kansas will set-
r own differences, as they would do were they still
abitants of organized states, without any interfe-
om federal authority.

states, whose resolutions I am now commenting
for the repeal of the fugitive slave law, and a
leal of discussion has, in my humble judgment,
asted in regard to the constitutionality of this
Without troubling you with details, or the hair-
g distinctions made in regard to some of its clauses, I
merely necessary to refer you to the section of the
tion of the United States, applicable to the subject.
ereby declared, art. IV, section 2:

person held to service or labor in one state, under the
ereof, escaping into another, shall, in consequence of
or regulation therein, be discharged from such ser-
labor, BUT SHALL BE DELIVERED UP ON THE CLAIM OF
TY TO WHOM SUCH SERVICE OR LABOR MAY BE DUE."

is positively a recognition of the right of the owner
the person who shall have escaped from his service,
the duty of the state under whose jurisdiction he
s to be, to deliver him up. It must be admitted, that
this provision in the constitution, the union of the
would never have been established, and the repeal of
tment which is intended to give effect and vitality to
ditions contained in it, would necessarily destroy that
t established. No one can desire such a conclusion,
refore I am frec to believe that the sober, discrimin-
udgmcnt of the people of New Jersey will resist so
n encroachment on right, leading to so disastrous a
The recognition of the principle has been always

sustained by the people of this state, and ample pr
for its enforcement is contained in our statutes.

The resolution by the state of Maine, that no ne
shall be hereafter admitted into the confederation w
stitutions authorizing slavery is, to my mind, enti
reconcilable with the principle of self-government
have already referred to, as well as with the p
on the subject contained in our national compact. T
condition provided in that instrument for the admi
new states is, that it shall have a "republican"
government, and the representatives of the states,
gress assembled, have no right to impose upon it a
condition. It is true that the constitution does not
obligatory to admit any new states, and members
gress may, in the exercise of the discretion reposed
refuse to vote for their admission; but if no othe
exists for such refusal, excepting the intended posse
slaves by the states so applying, it would be, to my
most flagrant departure from duty, and a breach
faith, not to be expected from men acquainted w
responsibilities, and faithful to the oath which they
ken to support and maintain the constitution, and i
be just as reasonable to say that New Jersey, or a
state, having abolished slavery, cannot, at their di
recognise and re-establish it. Without discussing fu
points referred to by the resolutions now transm
would only add the expression of my confidence, tha
existing dissensions, and those with which our co
further threatened, New Jersey will continue to o
position of just and honorable conservatism. Tru
memories of the past, and hopeful in the considera
the future, let us seek not to disturb those commo
which belong alike to every member of the Union. S
by our own independent sovereignty, as reserved
mutual agreement with our sister states, let us be w
concede to them all that we demand. Let us not, a

indulgence of what we may consider motives of phi-
oy, peril the peace and perpetuity of this Union, and
the future hopes of generations yet unborn.
change, to my mind, is desirable in the constitution
United States, and for this object a plan of amend-
o accomplish the change have been submitted to the
ture of Tennessee, by Governor Johnson, to which I
all your attention, as they are calculated to popular-
free institutions, and make them more national, by
ing the elections of President and Vice President,
ators of the United States, directly to the people, in-
f indirectly, through the electoral colleges and legis-
; and a further amendment, by which the judges of
ted States courts shall hold their offices for twelve
o be divided into three classes, so that one third may
en every fourth year, instead of holding their offices,
during good behavior. The importance of modify-
constitution of the United States is manifest from
esent condition of the House of Representatives.
oice of a President and Vice President should
be placed where the election might be indefinitely
ed, or result in placing men in office without
to the popular will. The proposed amendments
constitution would remove all apprehension and diffi-
n this account, as it contemplates that each state shall
ded by the legislature thereof into districts equal in
to the whole number of Senators and Representa-
which such state may be entitled in the congress of
ited States, and the person receiving the greatest
of votes for President, and the one receiving the
t number of votes for Vice President, in each district,
e holden to receive one vote, which shall be certified
gress, who shall count the votes; but if no person
majority of the whole number of votes, then a second
n shall be held between the two persons having the
t numbers for the office of President, and the same as

to the Vice President, and the elections to be held, c
and counted in the same manner, and the persons hav
highest number of votes to be deemed elected.

Your joint resolution approving of and recommendi
change in the constitution of the United States, ar
readiness to promote it in either manner prescribed
Constitution itself, I respectfully recommend.

The firm and decided position taken by our gove
in relation to the construction of the Clayton-Bulwer
will no doubt meet the approbation of the people
country. By it, our friendly relations with Great
may be disturbed. Colonization by any European p
this continent should always be resisted. Our nati
curity and the diffusion of the principles of free re
government, demand the political separation of th
of the American continent from those of European n
ical governments, and the efforts of the United State
always be directed to that object.

It will be perceived, that whilst our governm
scrupulously fulfilled the conditions of the treaty sp
the British government has, with extreme bad faith,
a portion of them, and now seeks to vindicate her
forced construction of words, which in their plain
tion go to support, in the clearest manner, the clain
United States. This is certainly an extraordinar
tion on her part, to a country which "has acquired
gree of strength necessary to command its own for
and it is to be hoped that the federal government
hesitatingly insist upon the conditions of the t
demand its entire abrogation.

In conclusion, I beg to express the confident h
your session will be a short one—the amount of pu
ness required is small. The last legislature passed
number of private acts, and many of them will
into effect, and others are of doubtful utility; f

the expenses greatly exceeded that of any previous
, without corresponding public benefit.
very desirable that the discrimination, wisdom and
y, which has heretofore guided and directed our
ion should be strictly observed.

RODMAN M. PRICE.